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No jobs? Just work for free

Bank of Canada governor says unemployed youth should be interning, volunteering PAGE 8

Time to debate women's issues, campaign urges

Up for Debate wants party heads to talk equality, violence PAGE 5

WHO HAD MICHAEL CAINE STAR-STRUCK?

ACTOR SAYS MEETING WORLD-RENOWNED PHYSICIST STEPHEN HAWKING NEARLY LEFT HIM IN TEARS PAGE 15

PRIDE TAKEOVER?

Rumours are swirling over who will take up Ottawa's pride parade torch following the bankruptcy of the Capital Pride organization. Members of the group and the National Capital Region's larger LGBTQ community are set to meet at a final annual general meeting tonight. Metro spoke with proponents of two groups looking to carry on the pride movement. See story, page 7. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

Teenage pimp ringleader gets adult sentence

Kailey Oliver-Machado. 18-year-old gets credit for time served, faces three more years behind bars

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An 18-year-old woman who, at age 15, preyed on young girls in Ottawa and forced them into prostitution was given an adult sentence of 6-1/2 years in custody Tuesday after a judge read a scathing summary of her "vile" crimes in 2012.

Kailey Oliver-Machado was convicted in January on 27 out of a total 32 charges, after Justice Diane Lahaie heard testimony from five victims who relived the horror in court.

Some were drugged, while others were beaten or had their clothes forcibly removed to have nude photographs texted to johns.

One girl brought "teddy bear" pajamas to what she thought was a friend's sleepover but was instead given provocative clothes to change into and delivered to johns in underground taxis to perform sex acts.

Oliver-Machado was found guilty of charges that include human trafficking, making and possessing child pornography, sexual assault, assault, and forcible confinement.

Lahaie credited her for time served in jail, so she will serve just under three years in a correctional facility.

Defence lawyer Ken Hall had tried to protect his client by asking for a youth sentence, but the judge sided with the Crown's request that Oliver-Machado be sentenced as an adult.

"Her crimes were heinous, premeditated, and well-organized," said Lahie. "Her actions were the product of a mind which was far more advanced than her age."

The decision brought tears of joy to the victims and their families in the courtroom. One of the teen victims whispered, "I'm not scared anymore."

Hall told reporters he is contemplating an appeal of the adult sentence.

The two co-accused, who were 15 and 16 at the time of their arrest in June 2012, entered mid-trial guilty pleas in September 2013. Oliver-Machado pleaded not guilty.

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Court

Teen pimp can overcome tough childhood: Judge

As she imposed an adult sentence on 18-year-old pimp Kailey Oliver-Machado, Justice Diane Lahaie reviewed the young woman's "dysfunctional" family and childhood, which she said likely contributed to the her behaviour.

In court on Tuesday, the teen's face remained stoic and expressionless as the judge criticized her mother — who, Lahaie said, was "a drug addict, exotic dancer and prostitute."

"(Her) mother has failed her throughout her life. She was a poor role model," said Lahaie.

"She failed to participate to any degree with school and other authorities to make use of any resources offered at various points in time, which may have assisted her daughter … she was notably absent during (the) greater majority of days spent in this court."

Lawyers will return to court on Nov. 13 to decide where Oliver-Machado will serve her sentence.

Before letting her go, Lahaie told the young woman she can move on from her "despicable" crimes, but the path to rehabilitation has to start within.

"It begins with your desire to change. And it is my hope that you will be rehabilitated, as you are very intelligent and resourceful," said Lahaie.

"You could, if you choose to do so, make a positive contribution to society and live a pro-social and happy life. I wish you all the luck."

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Det. Carolyn Botting, left, and Det. Kelly Lyle said the victims are happy with the six-and-a-half-year sentence given to an 18-year-old woman who lured young girls into a teen prostitution ring in Ottawa's south end in 2012. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Men must stop 'buying young girls for sex': Cops

Societal issue. Police praise courage of victims in coming forward to testify against pimps

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The two lead Ottawa police detectives who worked for months on cracking the teen prostitution ring in Ottawa's south end again praised the victims' valiant decision to come forward and hope the ringleader's adult sentence sends a message not only to young girls, but to men also.

Det. Carolyn Botting and Det. Kelly Lyle tracked down Kailey Oliver-Machado, now 18, and her two accomplices in 2012 and interviewed five of their victims.

Without the victims telling their stories, no charges likely would have been laid.

In their victim impact statements, some of them said they still have nightmares of the times they were delivered to men for sex. Others said they suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

But as brave as they all were, the detectives were quick to point out that this case comes down to johns buying sex from very young women.

"This never would have happened if men stopped buying young girls for sex," said Botting.

"We wouldn't have even been here today and that needs to change. These victims wouldn't have had to come forward if that hadn't taken place."

The victims were "very happy" with Justice Diane Lahaie's sentence, although they and their families have "a long road" ahead of them to recovery, said Botting.

"I think this sets a pretty clear tone for youth considering this as an alternative lifestyle," said Botting. "They're getting involved younger and younger and I think this sends a clear message as to what's going to happen in Canada if you choose this lifestyle."

Outside of court, a victim's relative told reporters she hopes Oliver-Machado gets rehabilitated "and becomes a good member of society."

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Family mourns 'incredible soul,' hit and killed by OC Transpo bus

Bojan Svaricek and his girlfriend Victoria Buchanan take a selfie together. Buchanan was killed when an OC Transpo bus ran her over Monday morning. CONTRIBUTED

Victoria Buchanan, 25. Woman ran to flag down bus when she slipped and fell in front of it

TREVOR GREENWAY
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The boyfriend of a woman killed in a pedestrian accident Monday says he is devastated after witnessing his future wife get run over by an OC Transpo bus.

Victoria Buchanan, 25, was killed around 7 a.m. Monday after she slipped while running to catch her bus on Baseline Road. She fell in front of the bus and was run over. She died of severe head injuries in hospital Monday morning.

"She was my love and she's gone," said Buchanan's boyfriend Bojan Svaricek, breaking down into tears.

The two were together for two years and were planning to marry in the near future.

"All I got is gone. I am crushed," he added through thick sobs.

Svaricek found it difficult to talk about the accident as he tries to cope with the loss of his partner — the woman he planned to spend the rest of his life with.

"She told her mom she wants to get married to me," he said.

"There is nobody like this girl. This girl was something different."

The two left their home shortly before 7 a.m. as they always do; on Monday, however, they were running a few minutes behind.

The two would typically hold hands as they walked to the bus stop, but because they were behind schedule, Buchanan ran ahead to flag down the bus. That's when she slipped and fell in front of the bus — just steps away from her boyfriend.

Buchanan's mother, Kelly Jodoin, recounted the incident to Metro as she said Svaricek had to her. Svaricek told Metro it was too painful to relive.

When Metro connected with Jodoin Tuesday afternoon and offered condolences, she immediately broke down — a heart-wrenching mother's cry echoing through the telephone.

She can't even begin to imagine a world without her daughter — the pretty girl who didn't let the small things in life bother her, the girl who gave more than she took, the kind of girl "you couldn't forget."

"She was the one to stop and smell the flower because it looked so beautiful, she just couldn't pass it by — that was her," said Jodoin, breaking down into sobs again. "She was the absolute gift from god that anybody could ever, ever, ever even fathom of dreaming of. She was everything, even with all the bullshit in life. She rose above that and her heart was as pure as a newborn baby."

Growing up in Ottawa, Buchanan was "a little bit of everything," who enjoyed sports, art and music. She had a promising career at TD Bank — one that was cut short Monday.

"She was such an incredible, incredible soul," said Jodoin, fighting back tears.

Police haven't said much about the accident, only that there were "no updates," Monday morning.

No charges have been laid in the accident.

Donor

Her blue eyes live on

A daughter's eyes will help two others see.

As distraught as she is at the sudden and tragic loss of her daughter, Kelly Jodoin does take comfort in the fact that her daughter's piercing blue eyes will help two other people see in this dark world.

Buchanan had donated both of her eyes to two patients in need — a gesture that has injected a drop of optimism into her mother's swelling pond of grief.

"As devastating as it is, it's absolutely flooring that two other people will be able to see because of her," said Jodoin, crying.

"She gave every second of every day and even in death, she still gives the gift of life."

Jodoin hopes to someday meet her daughter's recipients and takes comfort in the idea that some form of her daughter will still live on.

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New campaign asks leaders to put women's issues back Up for Debate

'Reset button'. Federal leaders urged to talk economic inequality, violence against women, support for women's organizations

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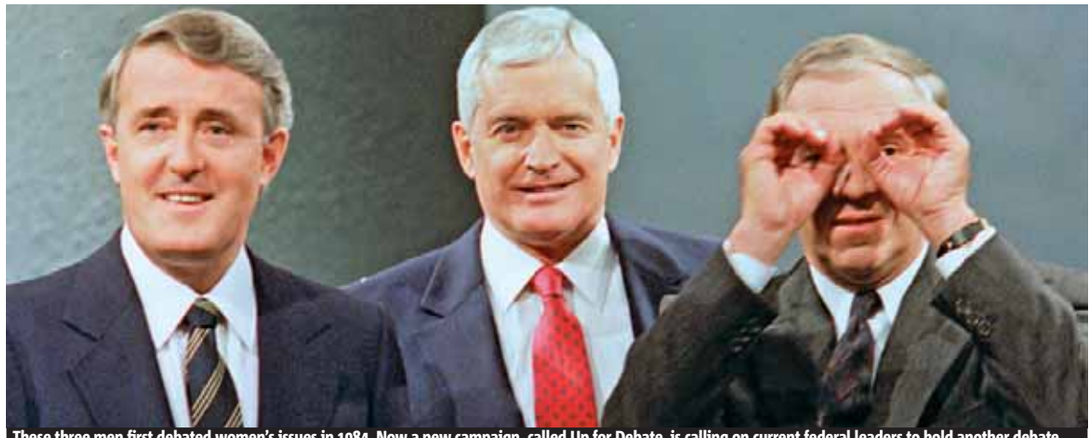

These three men first debated women's issues in 1984. Now a new campaign, called Up for Debate, is calling on current federal leaders to hold another debate on women's issues. This picture shows, from right, NDP Leader Ed Broadbent, Liberal Leader John Turner and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

In 1984, three federal party leaders debated women's issues on national television. It was the only election debate of its kind in Canadian history.

But now, 30 years later, a new campaign is pushing federal leaders to put women's issues back on the table in time for the 2015 election.

Up for Debate, which launched on Tuesday, is pushing for federal leaders to commit to ending violence against women, halt economic inequality and support women's organizations. More than 100 groups across Canada are calling for a revived debate on women's issues, three decades later.

"There has to be a special focus specifically on women's issues, not just general economic issues, but women and economics, women and housing, women and violence," said Claudette Dumont-Smith, executive director of the Native Women's Association of Canada. Her organization is demanding a strategy on 1,000-plus missing or murdered aboriginal women in Canada.

When Ed Broadbent, Brian Mulroney and John Turner met at the Royal York Hotel in 1984, issues such as abortion, affirmative action, pensions and social programs were debated.

Unfortunately, some of those issues have not been resolved, said Erin Leigh, executive director of the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women.

"There are very deep-rooted issues in terms of how we value women in society and those values are entrenched among individuals, consciously and less consciously, as well as embedded in our institutions," she said.

Over the past 30 years, the slate of candidates mostly has been made up of white men, said Green Party Leader Elizabeth May.

"I'm not suggesting that they're in any way sexist or not concerned with women's issues, but they don't spring to mind," May said. "So the fact that there was a separate leader's debate back then, in 1984 ... I think there's certainly time to hit the reset button and do it again."

May said there need to be more leaders' debates, not fewer.

Farm-to-table chef to mix it up at Ottawa Wine and Food Festival

Confit of duck, blintzes and more.
Chef Jamie Kennedy bringing his slow-food tricks to Ottawa

TREVOR GREENWAY
trevor.greenway@metronews.ca

Chef Jamie Kennedy prepares some fries to raise funds for a Toronto public school project converting an under-used tennis court into a garden. Kennedy will be in Ottawa to talk about fine cooking and local food at the Ottawa Food and Wine Festival. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jamie Kennedy is preparing one big meal for Ottawa this weekend — 500 plates big.

The Toronto chef — arguably Canada's most well-respected kitchen guru — is headlining the Ottawa Wine and Food Festival Nov. 7-9 and he is bringing with him all the slow-food tricks he has learned in his cultured cooking career.

But perhaps even more delicious than Kennedy's confit of duck, roasted potatoes and "Vegetarian Ceviche on Free Form Potato Crisp" on the menu Saturday night, is the chance to hear the local-first chef talk about food, as the dinner also includes a Q&A sit-down with Kennedy.

"It's an opportunity for people to have a conversation with me," he said over the loud hum of his buzzing Toronto restaurant Gilead Café, preparing for a busy dinner service Tuesday night.

The chef who has always championed farm-to-table cooking says food grown locally not only tastes fresher than imported goods, but also says something about the place where you are eating it.

"I was looking for a genuine expression of where I live and where I practise my craft and the way you can have a genuine expression, I came to, was that it has to reflect what is going on in the region where you are," said Kennedy.

"It's about opening your eyes and your mind to the possibility that spring from the parameters of a local context."

Hungry diners will be treated to Kennedy's five-course meal, each paired with a wine unique to Prince Edward County.

Kennedy is also launching his new cookbook that includes recipes for both beginner cooks and more advanced chefs.

Tickets are $125 and the dinner starts at 7 p.m. on Nov. 8.

Saturday night's menu

Passed Hors d'oeuvres

- JK Fry Cones with Cider Mayonnaise and Chili Mayonnaise
- Confit Belly on Crisp Apple
- Vegetarian Ceviche on Free Form Potato Crisp

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What's on the menu?

Ottawa foodies and wine lovers likely don't need to be told where to be this weekend.

Those who love a fine meal and a good wine have likely crossed off the entire weekend for the Ottawa Wine and Food Festival, featuring cases of international wine from Mexico to Australia and pretty much everywhere in between.

The food-and-drink celebration starts Friday afternoon with wine tastings throughout the day and evening. Celebrity chef Nina Compton — Top Chef's Season 11 runner-up — will then serve up a three-coarse meal featuring roasted vegetable salad, burrata and almonds, cocoa braised short ribs, polenta and baby vegetables.

Wine and food tastings are held throughout the weekend before 500 diners will spend an evening with Toronto chef Jamie Kennedy.

Tickets for the food show vary depending on event.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

A glass of Bonterra organic Cabernet Sauvignon is poured at the Ottawa Wine and Food Show. METRO FILE

Capital Pride's bankruptcy means event up for grabs after final AGM

Controversy. Pride more than a festival — it's a movement, says group's soon-to-be former chair

Two groups are vying to take over the beleaguered Capital Pride festival, after the organization officially dissolves on Wednesday night.

The group's last annual general meeting is likely to be a heated one, as board members will face tough questions on the organization's bankruptcy, alleged accounting irregularities and the future of the festival that's due to celebrate its 30th anniversary next year.

Current chair Jodie McNamara has already been facing criticism online about creating a "secret committee" to take over Capital Pride. But she maintains that's not the case; her group has simply not publicized it. According to a post on her Facebook wall, she has about 20 people in her group from about 14 different LGBTQ groups.

Whatever happens, the Capital Pride membership of 100 people will be asked to help decide the festival's fate at the AGM with a vote on which proposed successor the community should go with, said McNamara. Although she conceded that the vote would not be binding and anyone could throw a pride festival, such a festival would be meaningless without buy-in from the community.

"The movement remains," she told Metro, "and the legitimacy of who represents that movement remains with the community."

A Daily Xtra story said McNamara's pulling together a committee was a conflict of interest, but McNamara told Metro she was in a "unique position."

A paramedic carries a rainbow flag past Ottawa City Hall during the 2013 Capital Pride parade. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

"No one else was doing it, so I did it," she said. "I didn't do it as chair of Capital Pride. I did it as a community member and the organization had nothing to do with it."

McNamara also reportedly told Daily Xtra that Capital Pride has a "significant offer" from a potential sponsor, which would help pay for the parade and a fair.

Another group hoping to take over Capital Pride is being led by Francois Zarraga, who said he has "had enough" of the current organization.

While he said the alleged financial irregularities are the key problems plaguing Capital Pride, he also takes issue with the group's failure to include Gatineau. He would not give details on his plans, but said he envisions Pride on both sides of the river, complete with a full French translation. His group — which he said has just three members, but is growing — has been in the works for about a year.

"We cannot have the same people in the committee ever again," he said in a Facebook message.

Capital Pride declared bankruptcy in October following allegations of financial irregularities and cheques bouncing.

Event producer Sebastien Provost said a $23,700 cheque for alcohol bounced. Guillaume Tassé, who supplied portable washrooms, lighting and sound systems, among other items, said he was still waiting for a $42,000 cheque at the time the group declared bankruptcy.

The Capital Pride AGM will be on Wednesday at city hall starting at 6 p.m. It's open to the public.

In a notice about the AGM, McNamara said the Capital Pride board of directors would not take questions from the floor about bankruptcy, for legal reasons. However, there will be a report and a lawyer available to answer general questions. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO WITH FILES FROM SEAN MCKIBBON

Youth infusion on the Hill

From left, Rachel Barry, Tanner Anderson, Douglas Treloar and Kadir Warsame show off their name tags at Parliament Hill on Tuesday. They were among 100 youth from across Canada who job-shadowed MPs for the YOUth in Office program offered through the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Multiple charges

Man who allegedly punched cop appears in court

An Ottawa man who allegedly punched a police officer during a traffic stop on Bank Street, and who was reportedly under investigation by the RCMP's national security unit, made a brief court appearance Tuesday afternoon.

Luqman Abdunnur, 39, was charged with assault, obstructing police, resisting arrest and driving with a suspended licence after the Oct. 25 incident.

A justice of the peace said he was denied an application for legal aid and is scheduled to return to court Wednesday. JOE LOFARO/METRO

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CF-18s hit ISIL construction gear: General

Lt.-Gen. Jonathan Vance addresses a briefing Tuesday at the National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's overseas operations commander lifted the veil Tuesday on the air force's first bombing missions in Iraq as published U.S. reports suggested the plan to beat back the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) stretches until at least the end of 2015.

Sunday's CF-18 airstrikes destroyed construction equipment that ISIL fighters were using to develop defensive positions near Fallujah, west of Baghdad, Lt.-Gen. Jonathan Vance told a news conference in Ottawa. The militants were also reshaping a local dam, flooding nearby land to force Iraqi forces onto roads that had been mined and to deny a water supply to civilians, Vance said.

The New York Times reported over the weekend that a major counter-offensive by Iraqi forces, backed by American advisers and coalition air power, won't begin until the spring.

The goal will be for Iraqi and Kurdish Peshmerga fighters to cut off the enemy's Syrian supply routes, isolating them in strongholds such as Mosul before they can be driven out — something that likely won't happen until the end of 2015.

How many bombs were dropped and whether any ISIL fighters were killed in Sunday's raid were subjects Vance was not prepared to talk about, but he did say he was confident there were no civilian casualties. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz waits to appear at the Commons finance committee at Parliament Hill on Tuesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Work for free, BoC governor advises young Canadians

Youth unemployment. Poloz says unemployed youth should intern or volunteer to gain some learning experience

The Bank of Canada governor is recommending jobless young people burnish their CVs by working for free while they wait for the hobbled job market to pick up.

Speaking to a House of Commons committee Tuesday, Stephen Poloz suggested young Canadians struggling to find work should acquire more experience through unpaid internships or volunteering.

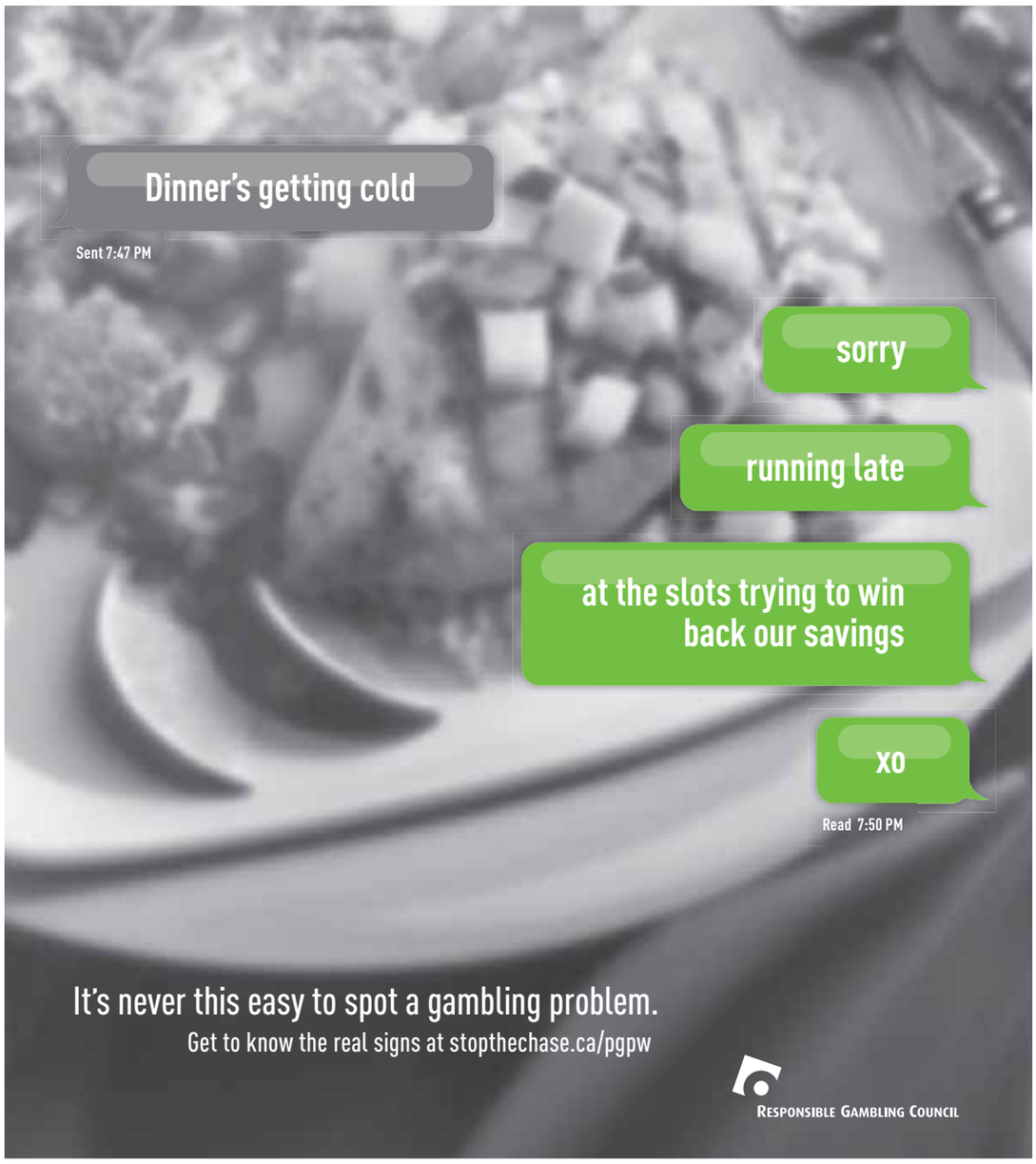
When asked what kind of advice he normally gives a young person looking for work in the tough job environment, Poloz told the committee he replies: "Well, volunteer to do something which is at least somewhere related to your expertise set, so it is clear that you are gaining some learning experience during that period."

He said hiring in Canada has failed to keep up with the already improving economy.

"Our belief is, though, that over the next two years we will manage to close up that gap," Poloz told the finance committee. Poloz added, however, that recent graduates who have not been able to find work will have to compete for jobs against new grads that arrive after them.

Liberal MP Scott Brison asked Poloz whether he thought unpaid internships were more of a benefit for wealthier youth because young people from a lower-income background can't afford to work for free. Poloz acknowledged it was an issue with unpaid work, but he recommended young people take the opportunities when they are available.

His remarks in Ottawa came a day after he said in a speech in Toronto that 200,000 young Canadians are out of work, underemployed or back in school trying to improve their job prospects. THE CANADIAN PRESS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Ruling upheld

CSIS hid foreign spying from court, judges affirm

The Federal Court of Appeal upheld a ruling Tuesday that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service hid the fact it was relying on foreign intelligence agencies to spy on Canadians abroad.

A panel of appeal judges affirmed the conclusions of Federal Court Justice Richard Mosley, who criticized CSIS for requesting warrants to track two Canadians with help from the Communications Security Establishment.

CSIS failed to disclose that CSEC's foreign counterparts in the Five Eyes intelligence network could be called upon to help — something Mosley called a deliberate decision to keep the court in the dark about the scope and extent of the foreign collection efforts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

France-Quebec ties unique: Hollande

French President visits Canada. Hails memory of two Canadian soldiers killed last month

French President François Hollande has described the relationship between Quebec and his country as "unique" as he continues his trip to Canada.

"Through history, you are, and always will be, our brothers," he said in an address to the national assembly in Quebec City on Tuesday.

"If we're looking for words to describe the relationship between France and Quebec, I would choose the simplest word. This relationship is 'unique,' the word forged over years of history."

Hollande, who visited Ottawa on Monday, was scheduled to travel to Montreal later on Tuesday to visit a digital arts centre.

In Quebec City, he told the legislature he wanted to hail the memory of two Canadian soldiers who were killed last month — one in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., on Oct. 20 and the other in Ottawa two days later.

"My thoughts go out to the families and to authorities in Quebec and Canada," he said.

"I know what terrorism is. France has had to face such ordeals, both beyond its borders and at home.

"Confronted with terrorism, we must show constant firmness and an invincible attachment to democracy, freedom and human dignity."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

French President François Hollande, left, chats with Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard, Tuesday. MATHIEU BELANGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Magnotta trial. German psychiatrist says accused has schizophrenia

A German psychiatrist who met with Luka Rocco Magnotta in 2012 at a Berlin prison hospital following his arrest says he believes the accused was suffering an episode linked to suspected paranoid schizophrenia.

Dr. Thomas Barth held daily meetings with Magnotta for about one week, beginning June 11, 2012, when he was transferred to his facility in Berlin.

Barth, testifying in person Tuesday as a defence witness at Magnotta's first-degree murder trial, said the accused rambled during their first session, offering bursts of information before quickly changing the subject.

The arrest warrant for Magnotta noted he suffered from schizophrenia. Barth said his own diagnosis was that Magnotta suffered a "severe psychotic episode related to suspected paranoid schizophrenia."

Barth labelled it as "suspected" because typically such an evaluation takes up to a month and that Magnotta was only at the facility for about one week before being returned to Canada on June 18, 2012.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luka Rocco Magnotta is taken by police from a Canadian military plane to a waiting van in June 2012, in Mirabel, Que. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba

Judge loses bid to quash hearing over nude photos

A Manitoba judge whose nude pictures were posted online has lost a bid to quash a disciplinary hearing that could result in her removal from the bench.

A panel of judges appointed by the Canadian Judicial Council has dismissed a motion from the lawyer for Associate Chief Justice Lori Douglas to throw the case out. Sheila Block compared Douglas to celebrities such as Jennifer Lawrence or Scarlett Johansson, whose nude photos were hacked, or to a rape victim who is subsequently shunned.

Block argued the panel shouldn't put Douglas through more trauma because she was a victim of cyber sexual assault.

The panel rejected Block's argument, along with one that suggested they shouldn't see the racy photos because that would violate Douglas's privacy.

The panel is expected to post written reasons for its decision within days.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Calgary police take page out of CSI episode with facial recognition tool

Cutting edge.
Technology first of its kind among Canadian police services

HELEN PIKE
Metro in Calgary

The Calgary Police Service is leading the charge in Canada in using facial recognition technology to search a massive image database and match suspects' images from video and still images to their mugshots. It's a process that takes seconds and vastly speeds up the identification process.

Keith Raderschadt of NEC Corporation of America, which supplied the technology, explained how powerful the software can be, using as an example a low-quality and blurry image of one of the Boston Marathon bombers wearing a white baseball cap.

"In this particular case I would sharpen the pixels," Raderschadt said, as the system pulled up a match in an instant. "This particular latent face has 46 pixels between the eyes matched against a mugshot in the repository."

The custom-built technology, dubbed NeoFace Reveal, seems straight out of a CSI episode.

First, an image is loaded into the program and scanned. Then, using an algorithm, it's matched up with another image already in the database.

"This technology will not be used to identify people walking down the street as a member of the general public," said Insp. Rosemary Hawkins. "It will be used to identify subjects involved in criminal activity under police investigation."

The system can use both photos and video, and can even change profile images into head-on shots by turning them into three-dimensional composites and rotating the 3D digital models.

Perp wearing sunglasses? No problem. This software is equipped to handle partially obscured images of people's faces and still find matches. It can even match people who have aged, or have changed their appearances dramatically.

This particular form of the software will be the first of its kind to be used for police investigations in Canada, according to Calgary police.

As of Monday, police were able to use the facial recognition software to expedite the identification of suspects, something that used to take weeks or even months.

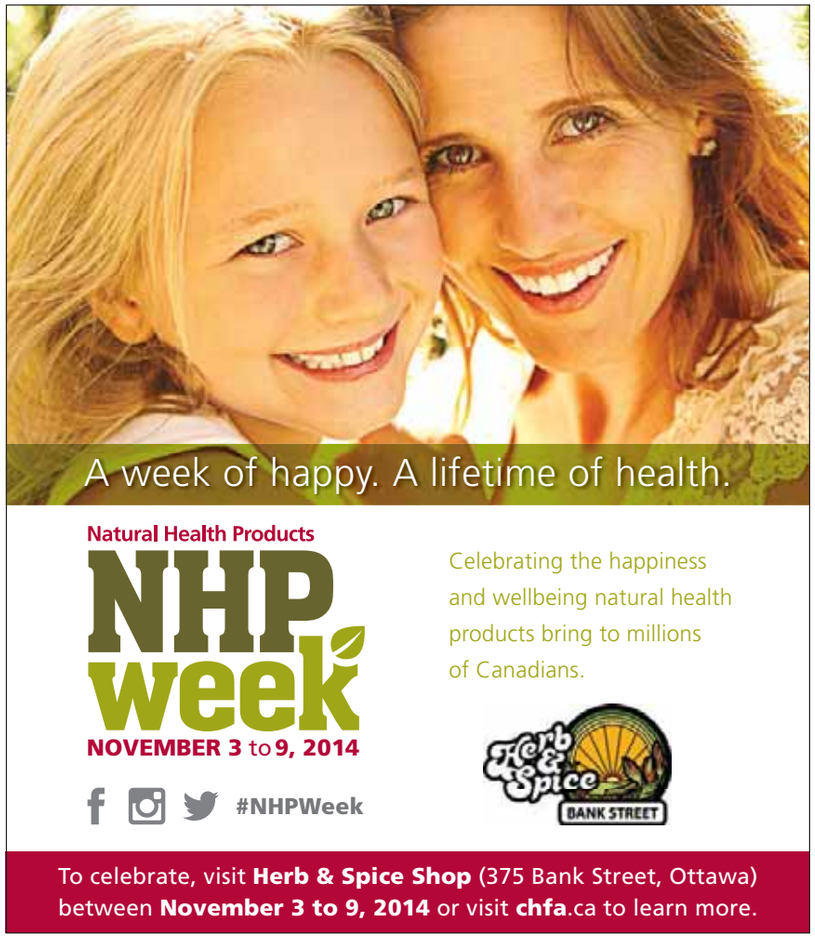
"Our technicians ... also have other jobs and functions (and identification of suspects) is something that they would work on as they had time," said Hawkins. "With this technology ... it's come up within seconds."

Keith Raderschadt from NEC Corporation of America demonstrates Calgary police facial recognition software in action, showing how an image of the Boston Marathon bomber is matched to a mugshot. HELEN PIKE/METRO IN CALGARY

Price tag

$500K

The project came with a price tag of just under the $500,000 the Calgary Police Service had budgeted.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China 'at a crossroads,' says memo preparing PM for trip

Diplomacy. Harper to embark on his third visit to country, which briefing note describes as facing political risk as it deals with economy

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is bound for a country at a crossroads, as he prepares to meet a Chinese political leadership that faces significant political risk in trying to move its massive economy forward.

That blunt assessment, uncharacteristic of a government bent on deepening economic relations with China, is contained in a briefing note prepared for International Trade Minister Ed Fast in advance of his April 2013 visit to that country.

Fast is one of many Conservative cabinet ministers who in recent years have prepared the way for the prime minister's third official visit to China, which starts this week.

Harper's office is emphasizing the economic and trade component of the trip, but it isn't shying away from the obvious human rights and democracy issues in China.

A briefing book prepared for Fast's trip last spring, a copy of which has been released recently under Access to Information, is part of several government documents that show the Harper government has been busily assessing the lay of the land in China for the last year. That includes weighing the political ramifications of China's rapid and uneven economic growth, and its relatively recent change in communist leadership.

"Today, China is at a crossroads. While the government has largely delivered on economic outcomes, with unprecedented growth over the past 30 years, the development of China's social welfare and governance systems has not kept pace," says the briefing note, dated March 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper responds to a question in the House of Commons in Ottawa on Tuesday. Harper is bound for China, a country "at a crossroads," according to a briefing note prepared in April 2013 and recently released. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Employment lawyer to helm Ghomeshi investigation

The CBC announced Tuesday that an employment lawyer will lead an independent investigation into the Jian Ghomeshi scandal. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Toronto employment lawyer with expertise in workplace harassment will lead an independent investigation into the scandal that has erupted around Jian Ghomeshi, former host of the radio show Q, the CBC said Tuesday.

In an email to staff, executive vice-president Heather Conway said Janice Rubin would begin her work immediately.

Conway urged anyone who worked on Q, or an earlier Ghomeshi show called Play, to contact Rubin with any complaints, concerns or experiences involving harassment, discrimination, violence or other inappropriate workplace conduct.

"If you have any information you wish to share, I strongly encourage you to come forward in order to ensure the investigation is as thorough as it must be," Conway said.

"Please be assured, these conversations will be handled sensitively and any individual who comes forward will be treated with care and respect."

While maintaining confidentiality, Rubin will report to senior CBC management about what she heard and what her investigations uncovered along with recommendations on resolving any complaints.

The investigator will also report separately on what the broadcaster should do to prevent any similar issues arising in the future.

Rubin is described on the law firm's website as an award-winning workplace investigator who has made guest appearances on CBC as an expert. She refused to comment on whether this posed a conflict of interest.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fallout

Earlier Tuesday, a CBC spokesman confirmed the most senior producer at Q, Arif Noorani, was taking time off.

- Reports say Noorani had been told of allegations by a former producer that Ghomeshi grabbed her and made lewd remarks, but in an email made public on Tuesday, Noorani said, "At no point was an allegation ... brought to my attention."

House of Commons

Tories support NDP motion to suspend Dean Del Mastro

The Harper government says it plans to support an NDP motion to suspend former Conservative MP Dean Del Mastro, convicted last week of Elections Act offences.

The Commons is debating the suspension after Speaker Andrew Scheer found evidence of a breach of parliamentary privilege following the Ontario Court judge's verdict against Del Mastro.

The Canada Elections Act says that MPs convicted of an illegal practice should not sit in the Commons for five years, but Scheer says the House is ultimately responsible for deciding such matters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba

'Naked judge' loses bid to avoid disciplinary hearing

A Manitoba judge whose nude pictures were posted online has lost a bid to quash a disciplinary hearing that could result in her removal from the bench.

A panel of judges appointed by the Canadian Judicial Council has dismissed a motion from the lawyer for Associate Chief Justice Lori Douglas to throw the case out. Block argued the panel shouldn't put Douglas through more trauma because she was a victim of cyber sexual assault.

The panel rejected Block's argument, and is expected to post reasons for its decision within days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Immigration

Feds expand health care for refugee claimants

Drugs for children and prenatal care will be among the new federal health-care benefits available to those awaiting a decision on their refugee claim — but only temporarily.

The new measures unveiled Tuesday will only be in effect until the federal government has exhausted its legal avenues in the ongoing battle over whether the health-care coverage program for refugee claimants is unconstitutional.

Tuesday's measures do not go as far as restoring the comprehensive coverage that was in place prior to 2012.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thousands in Sierra Leone break quarantine to find food

Overlooked 'nooks and crannies.' With deliveries not reaching some West African regions, Ebola patients are forced to gather their own resources

Parcels destined for an Ebola treatment centre wait to be loaded onto a plane bound for Sierra Leone at Schoenefeld airport south of Berlin on Tuesday. ODD ANDERSEN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Thousands of people in Sierra Leone are being forced to violate Ebola quarantines to find food because deliveries are not reaching them, aid agencies said.

Large swaths of the West African country have been sealed off to prevent the spread of Ebola, and within those areas many people have been ordered to stay in their homes.

The government, with help from the UN's World Food Program, is tasked with delivering food and other services to those people. But there are many "nooks and crannies" in the country that are being missed, Jeanne Kamara, Christian Aid's Sierra Leone representative, said Tuesday.

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa has killed nearly 5,000 people, and authorities have gone to extreme lengths to bring it under control, including the quarantines in Sierra Leone. Similar restrictions have also been used in Liberia and Guinea,

Some efforts have begun to show progress. The situation in Guinea is improving, as is the quality of care for Ebola patients, thanks to international aid, said Aboubakar Sidiki Diakite, an official with the country's Health Ministry, who was visiting Paris on Tuesday.

But more treatment centres and medical teams are still needed, the World Health Organization said at a news conference in Geneva on Tuesday. There are currently 16 treatment centres up and running and 58 more planned. To staff those centres, 500 foreign health care workers and 4,000 national ones are still needed.

In October, the World Food Program fed more than 450,000 people in Sierra Leone, including people who are under quarantine or being treated for Ebola, said Alexis Masciarelli, a spokesman for the agency in Dakar, Senegal. The distribution of food has been difficult, he said, since it has required bringing food to remote areas by poor roads.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sexual harassment. Ex-Playgirl model alleges company failed to stop torment

A company that helps businesses handle personnel issues denies it forced one if its employees out of his job after it was discovered he had posed nude in Playgirl magazine.

Daniel Sawka filed a federal civil rights lawsuit in May 2013 against Roseland, N.J.-based ADP Inc., alleging sexual harassment. Sawka worked as a regional sales manager for ADP, which offers workforce management services, including payroll services and human resources management, for other companies and says it has over 610,000 clients worldwide.

Sawka alleges he was subjected to constant jokes and ridicule at work after a woman in his office discovered he had posed nude in the early 1990s in a lumberjack-themed spread for Playgirl and found the photos online.

He said he went to the company's personnel department in February 2011 and was promised the company would take appropriate actions.

He alleges the company failed to end the ongoing sexual harassment, and he was "constructively discharged," a legal term meaning work conditions were so intolerable he was forced to leave in March 2011.

The company, in its response, denies there was a "pattern and practice" of jokes, sexually charged comments and ridicule. Sawka is seeking damages for lost pay and benefits and emotional distress.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thailand. Student insults king, gets prison time

A Thai court sentenced a university student to 2-1/2 years in prison on Tuesday for posting a Facebook message the court said insulted the country's king.

A Criminal Court judge found 24-year-old Akkaradet Eiamsuwan guilty of violating Thailand's lèse majesté law, which punishes people who defame, insult or threaten the monarchy.

The ruling said Akkaradet used an alias to post the message online in March. He was arrested in Bangkok in June and has been in jail since.

The court said it reduced an original sentence of five years imprisonment to 2-1/2 years because the defendant had confessed to the offence.

Thailand's lèse majesté law is the world's harshest, with jail terms of three to 15 years.

The role of the monarchy has come under closer scrutiny in recent years due to concerns about succession when 86-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej reaches the end of his reign.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oscar Pistorius

Prosecution files conviction appeals

Prosecutors in the Oscar Pistorius case filed appeal papers Tuesday, saying they believe a judge did not correctly apply the law when she found the Olympic athlete not guilty of murder for shooting girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

The prosecutors also said they were appealing against the "shockingly light" five-year prison sentence Pistorius was given for the legal equivalent of manslaughter, as well as a third decision by Judge Thokozile Masipa to acquit the double-amputee runner of illegal possession of ammunition for bullets found in his home.

South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority said it had filed for leave to appeal those verdicts and sentence, the first step in a process that could still see Pistorius convicted of murder and sent to prison for at least 15 years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rebuilding

Reconstruction of Gaza begins: UN

The United Nations says a program to reconstruct the Gaza Strip has begun, addressing damages from this summer's 50-day war between Gaza and Israel. Middle East peace process co-ordinator Robert Serry said the program started Monday with the sale of construction materials to 700 Gaza residents whose homes were damaged.

Palestinian estimates suggest as much as $6 billion will be required to repair the damage sustained during the conflict.

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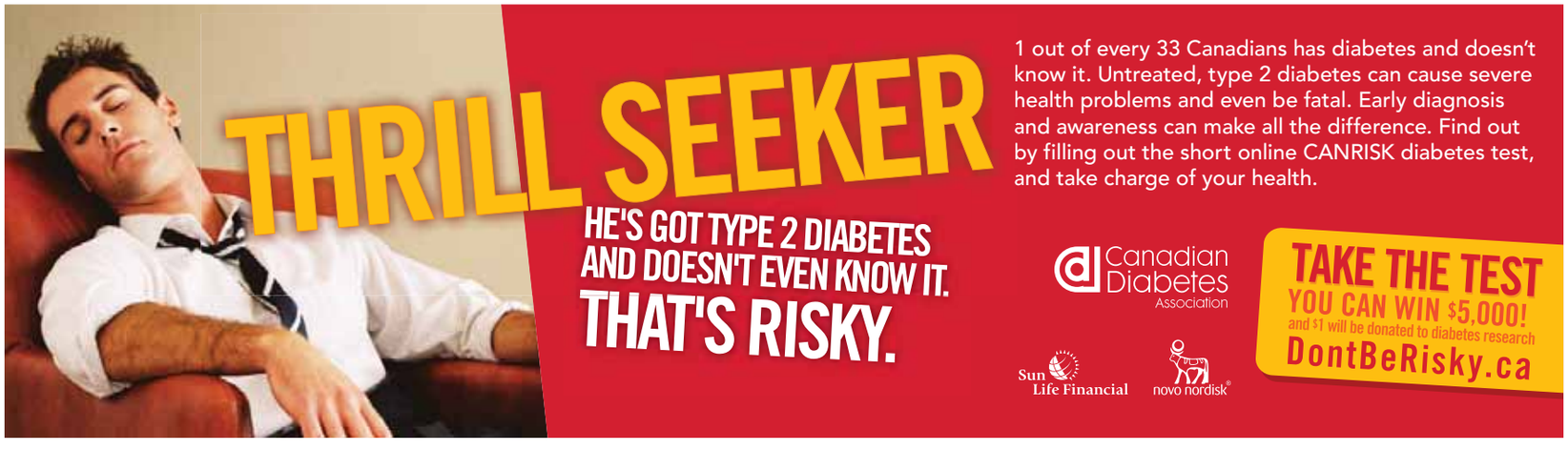
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Visa, MasterCard cut fees for merchants

Visa and MasterCard have agreed to reduce the fees they charge merchants for using credit cards, to an average effective rate of 1.5 per cent for the next five years. The reduction amounts to a 10 per cent cut. The reduction will be welcomed by small merchants, but one senator, who's been advocating for regulation of interchange fees, calls the cut "practically meaningless." Senator Pierrette Ringuette points out that Visa and MasterCard spiked rates by 25 per cent in the past two years. The announcement Tuesday comes more than a year after the federal Competition Tribunal ruled that Visa and MasterCard were being anti-competitive by charging excessive swipe fees and called for government regulation.

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Would you prefer $15-per-day child care or tax breaks?

Food Banks Canada. Group argues affordable, regulated child care would be more helpful to struggling families than tax benefits

Canadian food banks are wading into the hot political debate over how best the federal government can help families with kids: give them tax breaks, as the Conservatives are doing, or invest in regulated child care, as the NDP proposes.

In its annual HungerCount report, Food Banks Canada comes down squarely on the side of the NDP.

It says the use of food banks remains 25 per cent higher than it was before the devastating global recession in 2008.

Among other recommendations, the report says the federal government should replace "the current alphabet soup" of child tax benefits with a new child well-being benefit that targets the most vulnerable families.

And it calls on federal and provincial governments to invest in predictable, stable funding for affordable, regulated child care, enabling parents to enter or remain in the workforce.

The report comes just days after Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced a family tax package, which includes enhanced child tax benefits and income splitting — a measure economists say will benefit primarily wealthy couples with kids.

The Conservatives have said their plan will allow parents to choose what's best for their kids and have disparaged the NDP's proposal to invest $5 billion a year to create one million, $15-per-day child care spaces.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Food bank users

According to the Food Banks Canada report, households with children are the biggest users of food banks.

- Almost a quarter of those helped are two-parent families.
- Children make up 37 per cent of food bank users.

Analysts warn

Scotiabank cuts could be sign of things to come

Widespread cost reductions at Scotiabank, which include plans to cut 1,500 jobs, could be a sign of changes to come in, several analysts suggest. The move has some wondering if the rest of Canada's banks will make similar adjustments to their operations, as underperforming regions and slower overall growth add pressure to results. THE CANADIAN PRESS

From Netherlands

Russian accused of hacking to be extradited to U.S.

The Dutch government has approved the extradition to the United States of a Russian citizen accused of participating in a hacking ring that penetrated computer networks of more than a dozen corporations and stole at least 160 million credit and debit card numbers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 87.64¢ (-0.41¢)

TSX 14,390.43 (-147.19)

OIL $77.19 US (-$1.59)

GOLD $1,167.70 US (-$2.10)

Natural gas: $4.15 US (+$0.11)
Dow Jones: 17,383.84 (+17.60)

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WHEN SCANDAL HITS: TUNE IN OR OPT OUT?

GUEST COLUMN

Kate Carraway
metronews.ca

Last week was super-productive: On Monday, and Tuesday, and Wednesday, I got more work done than I usually have by Friday.

I was on deadline-lockdown, also known as "desk-jail," which means turning on the Internet-blocking program Freedom for hours at a time to focus more on my own stuff and less on everyone else's Twitter feeds. But last week the Internet was almost totally unavailable for me.

The news cycle was, of course, dominated by Jian Ghomeshi, and many women, and many other people's ideas about Jian Ghomeshi and many women.

Usually, I'd be all over it, reading every article, watching the relevant hashtags build and mutate, and refreshing Twitter as fast as my pro-level Internet-finger can click. Usually, I'd find myself emerging after a scary news cycle and subsequent social-media cloudbursts with a headache and a handful of peanut M&Ms.

Instead, this time, I just ... didn't. I opted out. The circumstances of my work schedule suddenly collided with the fact that, as I get older, I get incrementally smarter about what I need to do (and see and read).

It doesn't mean I didn't have anything to say; on one of the sub-topics of last week's news I had *a lot* to say about the very specific ideas some people seem to have about what women should or usually do after being assaulted — all of it demonstrating a profound misunderstanding and lack of empathy about what other people's experiences might be like — but found myself disinclined to say it.

I didn't tweet about what everyone else was tweeting about, except something to the effect of "not reading the news is great."

While my friends and colleagues got way into the details — look, I was still checking my Twitter "Must Read" list — I instead thought almost exclusively about my own life and work.

I started to think of the disengagement as something else, something active rather than passive — even something radical. I was choosing to *do something else.*

It's not as though reading the news or even staying super-current is any kind of problem itself. The problem, which I discovered when I accidentally solved it (thank you, deadlines), is the common idea of having to consume news at the rate it expands and becomes available. By now, the news "cycle" either doesn't exist or happens every few seconds, and when that news is particularly upsetting or affecting (which varies from person to person) it can't be consumed in the way we've gotten used to, which is to be immersed in everything, always.

It's not that I won't take on anything that involves negative energy — which is fundamental to being alive — but I want and probably need to better manage the volume and veracity of information for information's sake (or gossip's, or random curiousity's).Now, if I'm not being informed or edified, I'm opting out.

Paul Sullivan returns next week with Just Sayin'.

Cloudbusting

A fallstreak hole forms in the sky over Wonthaggi, Australia, Monday. A fallstreak hole is a circular gap that appears in high clouds, when a section of the cloud freezes. The ice crystals are heavy, so they fall out of the cloud, leaving a hole. It is a relatively rare phenomenon. LEESA WILLMOTT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fallstreak hole stirs the imagination down under

A bizarre cloud over parts of Australia caused a flurry of concern and awe on social media.

The rare cloud, known as a fallstreak hole, appeared on Monday over the Wonthaggi, in the Gippsland area of Victoria, flecked with colour and giving the appearance of a hole in the sky.

Michael Efron from the Bureau of Meteorology's duty forecaster, said that the phenomenon is also known as a punch hole cloud.

"They form when the water temperature in the cloud is below freezing, but the water has not yet frozen due to a lack of ice nucleation particles," Efron told Fairfax Media. DAILYMAIL.CO.UK

Wild theories

In May the same type of cloud formed in Northern California, sparking conspiracy theories.

- "So the @WhiteHouse wants you to believe what happened over the skies of Stockton yesterday was a 'cloud formation' ? GTFOH #iKnowWhatiSaw," tweeted one user.
- Others pointed to government controlled weather manipulation and worm-holes for the cloud's unusual appearance.

MetroTube

Mother knows best

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

SCREENGRAB

Are you excited for Christopher Nolan's Interstellar? Because we sure are. And so is a YouTube video editing ace who had his noob mother watch Inception and provide us with her slightly askew version of the plot. Perhaps in deference to the film's content, she also implants ideas of Matt Damon and Jennifer Lawrence as perfect co-stars in our heads. BAHM! (PixelsPerSecond/YouTube)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: CBC wants to know your thoughts on the future of Q. Who do you think should replace Jian Ghomeshi as host? #QTheFuture.

@MyroneDelacruz: Master T or @sookyinlee

@Mausheimer: Hire BILLY BOB!!!!! He's got the gravy! He's smart, brave, multi talented, can write his own essays, and he's a musician!

@ChillBQ : Would be great to see @NirmalaNaidoo get the role.

@stuckinoregon: The shows this week are as powerful as ever & benefit from not being tied 2 the star quality of a particular person #QtheFuture

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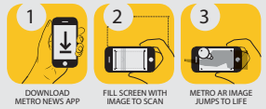

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On film

Interstellar's reel deal

Today marks a milestone: a film is being released on film. Interstellar hits theatres today — just not even close to all of them. That may seem odd, given that it's one of the most highly anticipated movie events of the year: the latest from brainy blockbuster-maker Christopher Nolan.

Yet the only theatres getting it are the ones that never threw out their film projectors (and who still have the staff who actually knows how to work these rickety contraptions). Starting today one can see Interstellar in good, old-fashioned, grainy and dangerously combustible 35mm as well as super-sized 70mm IMAX. The ones that converted entirely to digital, which is nearly all of them — don't get it till Friday.

This bold move is a strong push-back against the digital wave that has almost entirely consumed modern movie watching. Grand gestures like this Interstellar brouhaha help create film awareness — even if, one could argue, it turns the medium into a William Castle-style gimmick.

Interstellar indeed looks great on 70mm. Its early scenes on Earth — the film, incidentally, is about Matt McConaughey and Anne Hathaway searching through the cosmos for a planet to replace the dying Earth — are sometimes impossibly dark. But once it gets to space you can not only *see* the majesty, but *feel* it. It looks real — it looks like film. MATT PRIGGE/METRO

Caine gets big bang out of Hawking

Movies. Meeting the physicist turns Interstellar star into a giddy fanboy

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Interstellar, one of the most anticipated films this month, stars Michael Caine, Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway. CONTRIBUTED

What does it take for Michael Caine to get star-struck? Meeting Stephen Hawking. And he recently got to do just that. Caine's work in Christopher Nolan's new film, Interstellar, gave him the chance to become friendly with theoretical physicist Kip Thorne, who in turn introduced Caine to Hawking — who himself only had one thing on his mind, as it turned out: Caine's wife.

When Christopher Nolan explained this project to you, how did you wrap your head around it?
Well, I was fascinated by it because I knew Kip Thorne's book about black holes and all that stuff, and then I found out that Kip Thorne was the technical adviser and that I was going to be — really, not playing Kip Thorne the person — but a Kip Thorne character. That's why I grew a beard; I wanted to look like Kip. And then he introduced me to Stephen Hawking, who came and saw the movie! I was so stunned, I nearly burst into tears. I mean, meeting Stephen Hawking, my God. It was incredible.

What was your interaction with him like?
He can hear every word you say, but he can only reply on the computer with a muscle in his eye. One muscle in the corner of his eye, it's down to that. I met him in the corridor with Kip, and Kip said,

Michael Caine CONTRIBUTED

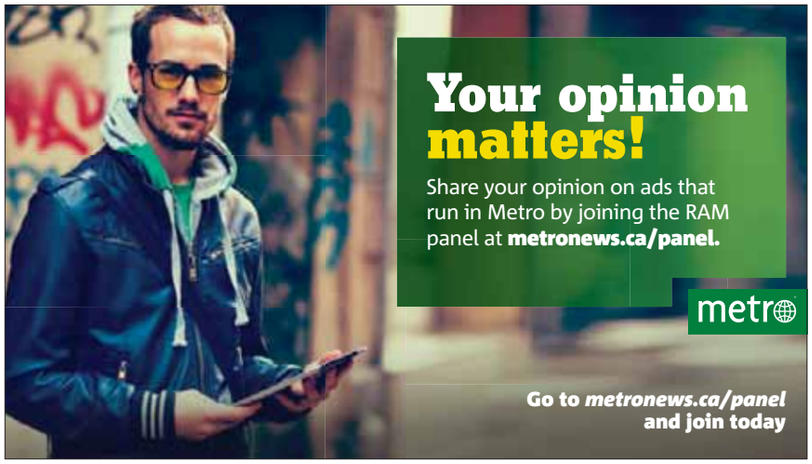
"Stephen's got a message for you." I said, "What is it?" He said, "He wants to meet your wife." He loves the ladies. I introduced him to Jessica Chastain, Anne Hathaway, my daughters. Every pretty girl that was around, I introduced him to the lot of them. He had a great time.

Getting to work with Kip had to be an added bonus, as well.
Also it's a mine of information for someone like me. I'm not an expert on astrophysics. I mean, I know quite a lot about it, of course, but I'm not an expert. There were black holes, but then there were wormholes, and I didn't understand that. You realize how dumb you are. I was all right up until the third dimension, then the fourth dimension. And then when we got to the fifth dimension, I got confused. But the people younger than me can understand it, I'm sure.

At what point do you just assume that you're the voice of reason in Christopher Nolan's head?
I seem to be that all time, don't I? I'm always the one who's sort of there representing the people who stayed behind. Like in Batman, I was the realist, saying, "You're going to do what? You're going to put on a suit and go to the top of the building?" I seem to represent the people on Earth who don't go out and actually do the things. But in some cases, as in this picture, I'm the one who thinks it up.

Maybe next time he'll let you go on the mission.
No, I'm too old. I'm 81 now. By the time we do another I'll probably be 84. No, I think it could work, we'll see what he gets up to. You never know where Chris is going to come from. I've done it six times now, and I'll do it a seventh if he comes up with one. He will, and I'm hoping there will be something in it for me.

At this point, it would be rude of him not to include you.
Yeah, he's got to do it, hasn't he, really? Otherwise he'll upset an old guy.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OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Ariana Grande GETTY IMAGES

Sending a great pumpkin is not the way to win Ariana's heart

Sometimes a fan loves Ariana Grande so much that the young singer has no choice but to call the cops on him. At least that was what happened when Tim Normandin, a 29-year-old man from Lowell, Mass., didn't heed her record company's request that he stop sending Grande outlandish and odd gifts, according to TMZ. Among the tokens of his affections? Eight Yankee Candle Company candles, calendars featuring puppies and kittens, a three-piece mirror set from Kmart, a $200 anklet from Kay Jewelers, a rock he picked up in New Hampshire's White Mountains and, best of all, a 42-and-a-half-pound pumpkin, which is apparently not the way to a pop star's heart after all. Huh.

Jennifer Aniston GETTY IMAGES

Movie make-under takes the Cake for Aniston, who found the look liberating

In her new indie film, Cake, Jennifer Aniston got something of a make-under, dressing down with no makeup and a drab haircut to play a car-crash survivor. And you know what? She loved it. Aniston found taking on the look "so fabulous — so dreamy and empowering and liberating," she said during a recent Deadline panel. "The only time I had to sit in the makeup chair was just for the scars." Oddly, there haven't been a bunch of "get her look!" posts connected to this one.

The Word

Rihanna not too shy to reveal her inner geek

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Rihanna graces the cover of Elle magazine for the fourth time for its December issue, and in honour of that, she sat down for a Q&A session. The resulting piece is full of evidence that Rihanna truly is the Ernest Hemingway of pop stars, using two words where someone like Miley Cyrus would probably use 12. But even with such brevity, her answers are illuminating — terrified of childbirth, loves Michael Bolton's Greatest Hits. Who knew?

Here are some of her more memorable sound bites.

- The answer we don't really believe:
  Elle: What do people misunderstand about you?
  Rihanna: I'm shy.
- The answer that's not such a huge surprise:
  Elle: What's your mantra?
  Rihanna: "F— bitches, get money!"
- The answer that solidifies her geek cred:
  Elle: The last time you were starstruck?
  Rihanna: When I met Aaron Paul at the Spike awards.
- Most unintentionally cringe-inducing answer:
  Elle: If you were a piece of jewelry, what would it be?
  Rihanna: I'd be a choker!

Sean Kory SCPD

The latest guy to bring the hot to a mug shot has a hate-on for Fox News

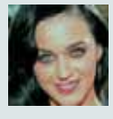
That's the thing about the Internet, it just keeps on rolling along. "Hot Mug Shot Guy" Jeremy Meeks is all but a memory, and now someone's come along to take his title. There's a new Hot Mug Shot Guy sweeping the Internet — with a less conflicting cause for arrest. Sean Kory was arrested at a Halloween parade for assaulting a man dressed up as a Fox News reporter. Kory reportedly yelled, "I hate Fox News," grabbed the man's prop microphone and rubbed it in his crotch then began pummelling the victim with a tennis racket, though police reports indicate the man was not injured. Meeks became an online sensation earlier this year when his mug shot went viral after his arrest on gang-related gun charges.

That's some long game! Ah-nold's boy has been creeping Miley since 2011

Miley Cyrus GETTY IMAGES

Miley Cyrus is reportedly now dating Patrick Schwarzenegger, son of the Governator himself and Maria Shriver, according to E! News. Now, some sources say they're "casually dating" while others say they're "just good friends" and "not officially together." Either way, one thing is for sure: Schwarzenegger likes to play the long game. In a 2011 Details magazine profile, he said of his dating life, "My eye, though, is on Miley." Which is either adorable or creepy. Or adorably creepy.

Twitter



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@jimmykimmel
the great thing about twitter is you get to hear from SO many lovely people!

@KChenoweth
I know I know. I gotta do Instagram.

How-to

Get your snowbird ducks in a row

Insurance expert Erin Finn from RSA Canada has some tips for those of you flying south.
1. Make sure the insurance company knows you'll be away for an extended period of time.
2. Have a friend or neighbour keep an eye on your house. In the event of a power outage, frozen pipes can spell disaster.
3. Make sure your travel insurance is up to date. Don't assume credit card travel insurance provides full coverage. Read the fine print.
4. Confirm that your driver's licences, passports and vehicle registration are valid for the entire trip.
5. Carry a list of all medical prescriptions with you, as well as your medical history.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Trend

Child-free sun destinations

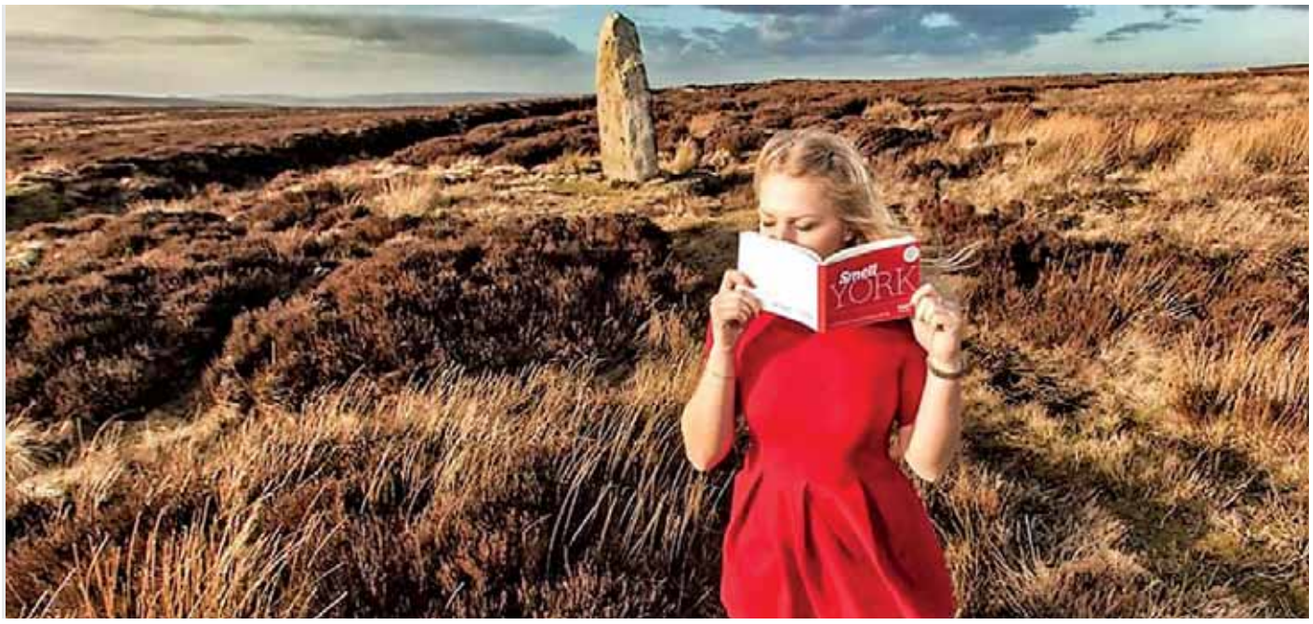
Leaving the kids with Auntie this season while you jet south? You're not alone. Adults-only vacation spots are on the rise, with everyone from young couples to retirees getting in on the peace and quiet — parents included. At places like the Dominican Republic's adults-only The Level at the Mèlia Caribe (pictured), you get not just grown-up dining and pools, but a giant swath of beach as well. Not a pail or shovel in sight.

DOUG WALLACE

New

Gansevoort arrives in the D.R.

Gansevoort Hotel Group, of New York's Meatpacking District fame, opens oceanfront resort Gansevoort Playa Imbert in the Dominican Republic next month. Situated on the country's north coast, the new hotel is a step up from the regular resorts in the area, with 48 one- and two-bedroom lofts, plus several multiple-bedroom apartments. Private rooftops, plunge pools, gourmet food and a yoga garden are just a few of the luxe features on tap. Visit gansevoorthotelgroup.com. DOUG WALLACE



Let your nose be your guide through York

Travel is all about experiencing new sensations, including different smells: the fresh fragrance of a grassy meadow, the perfumes wafting from stores and the scent of candles in centuries-old cathedrals. That's why the tourist office in York, England, created the world's first scented visitor's guide. Titled Smell York, the city guide catalogues some of the English city's most distinctive aromas and corresponding tourist attractions. A total of 12 attractions are pictured in the booklet (one for each month), and each image is infused with an associated smell. Tourists simply scratch and sniff to experience the fragrances, which range from rather classic notes such as tea, chocolate and wild fern to a few more unusual odours. In a nod to the legend that York is one of the U.K.'s most haunted cities, the tourist office included a page with "the haunting aromas of ghosts," characterized by rose and sulphur notes. Tourists can also experience the smells of the horse track or the railroad. The Smell York guide is available online for £5 (around $8) at visityork.org/first-smellyork.aspx. AFP

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Culture and cuisine await in the Sweet Home state's port city

Mobile. Take in the southern style of this Alabama city — one that's obsessed with Mardi Gras, oysters and azaleas

MIKE DOJC
life@metronews.ca

Alabama's port city has plenty to offer. MIKE DOJC/METRO

Two hours east of the non-stop party that is N'awlins (New Orleans) and an hour northwest of the Florida Panhandle's seductive sands, Mobile, Ala., provides the best of both worlds — a blossoming cultural core surrounded by the pleasures of the salt life.

Mobile (pronounced Mohbeel) is bona fide Southern, the historic downtown corridors adorned with a canopy of live oaks festooned with Spanish moss and Mardi Gras bead tendrils that hang in the sky year round. Architecturally, the city glistens with Greek Revival buildings, antebellum manses, gothic churches, and ornate balconies of lacey wrought iron.

While not as synonymous with Mardi Gras outside of the region as the Big Easy, Mobile was the first American city to laissez les bons temps rouler with Fat Tuesday celebrations dating back to 1703. Their annual two-and-a-half week-long bash is absolutely epic.

What to see

Gain a full appreciation for Mobilians' Mardi Gras obsession at the Carnival Museum. Scope out the many displays of intricate and sumptuous gowns and coronation robes and be sure to climb atop a parade float and hurl a moon pie, Mobile's go-to throw. Football fanatics should keep an eye out for JaMarcus Russell's crown from when he was King of Mardi Gras in 2010.

Then climb your way through the 12 decks of the feature attraction at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park. The vessel earned the nickname "The Lucky A" during the Second World War as no seamen were lost by enemy fire. Cleveland Indians Great Bob Feller joined the Navy right after Pearl Harbor and served 34 months aboard the USS Alabama as a gunnery captain. You'll spy a trove of the HOF pitcher's memorabilia aboard.

What to do

When in Azalea city, you need to drink in a sea of hot pink and purple hues at Bellingrath Gardens and Home in the Mobile suburb of Theodore. While azalea season is in the spring, they've got roses blooming in the summer, chrysanthemums in the fall and poinsettias perking up over the winter, so there's no off season at this 65-acre floral fantasy land.

Where to eat

Wintzell's Oyster House, now a sprouting regional chain, is a Mobile mainstay with the original location on Dauphin Street shucking bivalves since 1938. They're known for serving them "fried, stewed, or nude." Try a dozen char-grilled, or at least sidle up to the bar to witness the open-flame preparation in action.

Cap off your Mobile culinary crawl with the progressive Southern cuisine of True Midtown Kitchen. Manager Richard True and chef Jonathan Stern collaborate on edgier takes on familiar dishes. Order the lamb meat loaf garnished with a mint ketchup and served with garam masala potatoes and Waldorf salad.

"We like to find the root of one thing and do it a little different ... say with eastern spices like in the meatloaf, that's the goal," says True.

Where to stay

The landmark site of The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa has burned down a few times in the past 200 years, but the current AAA four-diamond building is still plenty old, dating back to 1908. On the second floor have a friend stand facing one of the four arches. Go to the other 50 feet away and say, "What's up, doc?" They'll hear you loud and clear. Of course, these arch-whispering acoustics mean you may want to steer away from "private" conversations in the vicinity.

If you go...

- **Carnival Museum.** mobile-carnivalmuseum.com
- **USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.** ussalabama.com
- **Bellingrath Gardens and Home.** bellingrath.org
- **Wintzell's Oyster House.** wintzellsoysterhouse.com
- **True Midtown Kitchen.** kitchen.truedine.com
- **The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa.** marriott.com

Dream trip

Anguilla is a magnet for celebrities. PETER REMUS

Add these spots to your bucket list!

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

If money was no object, where would you go, where would you stay, and how would you travel? I have had the good fortune to experience some first-class holidays over the years. Here are a few of my favourites.

Sun

The Caribbean island of Anguilla is a magnet for celebrities who want to vacation discreetly. Five-star hotels and $40,000 a week private villas have catered to the likes of Princess Diana and Ellen DeGeneres for the last 30 years. The high-end accommodations blend in subtly with the island's 33 beautiful white sand beaches, local beach bars, and restaurants helmed by creative chefs.

Airline

If you are headed to Europe and want to splash out, book business class on KLM. The lay-down beds are a fairly common perk, but the service and food provided by Holland's Royal Dutch Airlines is just that extra bit special. Given as a parting gift, the Delft Blue pottery house filled with Dutch gin makes a great souvenir.

Ski

The team at Island Lake Lodge in Fernie, B.C., offers an unparalleled powder skiing adventure to anyone willing to give it a try. Travelling by Sno-Cat, skiers are treated to a mix of bowl and glade skiing. Although the untamed nature of the slopes can be intimidating, the stunning scenery makes the experience magical.

Hotel

Ol Donyo Lodge nestled below Kenya's Chyulu Hills has set a bar so high I can't imagine it ever being beat. Guests stay in beautifully decorated individual lodges where they can comfortably spy on animals drinking from the property's watering hole. Each lodge offers every possible amenity, including an additional bed on the roof for those inclined to fall asleep under the twinkling African sky.

Five free things to do when you're in Sicily

Sicily is the Mediterranean's largest island and a trip around this triangular-shaped ancient land can be particularly rewarding for those in search of free things to do. Besides Sicily's sights, smells and sounds — the feast of wildflowers in rainy months, colourful street markets, picturesque faces and places around every corner — many of the island's greatest gifts are free.

STORY AND PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mountains

There are three extensive regional parks to explore — those of Mount Etna, and the Nebrodi and Madonie mountains. In each of these reserves there are a wealth of hiking trails, rivers and spectacular gorges to navigate. Many paths skirt the smouldering volcano of Etna, which offers one of the most spectacular free shows on Earth during its frequent eruptions.

The sea

When you think of Sicily, you can't help but imagine the sea. Sicily's coasts are dotted by public beaches and gorgeous quiet spots. Besides the beaches of the main island, Sicily's satellite islands — the Aeolian and Egadi are the easiest to reach — offer stunning oases. To enjoy the sea at its best, go to the protected marine area of the Egadi islands where sea life flourishes.

The Norman Cathedrals

In the Middle Ages, Sicily was conquered by the Normans, bands of northern knights who were leading the Crusades at the time. In Sicily, the Norman kingdom merged northern and Muslim esthetics to create one of Europe's most fascinating architectural styles. Awe-inspiring vaulted ceilings, glass mosaics with rich golden backgrounds transfix visitors. The cathedrals at Monreale and Cefalu are free.

Targa Florio

Sicily remains a great destination to watch open road racing. The biggest of these events is connected to the historic Targa Florio, an open road race begun in 1906 that took racers onto the hair-raising mountain roads near Palermo. The Targa Florio became a celebrated event of daring, but eventually became too dangerous. The event continues as a rally in May where classic and modern cars roar through the narrow mountain switchbacks.

The festivals

Among the biggest and most celebrated festivals in Sicily are those connected to Easter. Trapani's daylong Easter procession — the Misteri di Trapani — is best known for its masses of people, its ornate wooden statues, music and the range of emotions displayed by participants and viewers alike. The hours-long procession evokes everything from frenzy to sorrow to joy as bearers bolster the statues through crowded streets.

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Size matters when managing success

Career. Whether petite or gargantuan, the size of the company you work for makes a professional difference

RIANA TOPAN
TalentEgg.ca

When it comes to an ideal company size, there is no right answer. It's important to take time to reflect on your personal and professional priorities to decide what kind of environment might be better for you. ISTOCK

Have you ever wondered if the size of the organization you work for can affect your career? The answer is that yes, it can.

There are benefits to working at both small companies (generally considered to be businesses with fewer than 100 employees) and large companies (those with more than 500 employees). Mid-sized organizations fall between the two.

Unless you have a concrete reason for preferring one over the other, it's best to apply to companies of all sizes when looking for a job.

Over the course of your career, you'll hopefully get to experience what it's like to work at both large and small establishments. Here are some of the major differences you'll notice:

Levels of responsibility

Those who work at a smaller company may have more individual responsibility than their counterparts at large organizations.

A small staff means that there are fewer individuals responsible for the company's operations, so the share of responsibility is greater.

However, managers at large companies may be responsible for operations at a higher level — with higher risks and higher potential gains or losses, for example.

In general, a company's size determines how much of a role an ordinary employee has in both the organization's successes and failures. At smaller companies, there's potential for more recognition when things go well — and more accountability when they don't.

Staff dynamic

- Employees at a small company will usually get to know each other better and may develop an organization-wide sense of community and teamwork. They may also find it easier to develop relationships with most or all of the people at their office, which can be great for fostering a positive work environment.
- At large firms, staff are more likely to work on teams within departments or even different offices. They often build strong relationships with the people they work most closely with and become acquainted with other staff members (which can be very helpful for networking).

Job descriptions

Along with a greater portion of responsibility, employees of small companies also have more varied workloads. One person might be responsible for managing several portfolios or platforms, while someone with a similar background at a larger organization may only be responsible for one or two projects, working as part of a larger team.

There are pros and cons to both. At a large company, you'll likely find a more established internal structure with clear delegation of responsibility and the opportunity to focus intensely on a small number of tasks.

Get to work in a smaller organization, and you'll be responsible for a more diverse and fluid role. This can be great for gaining new experience and growing professionally.

Mobility and stability

Companies with more employees typically have more opportunities for advancement within the organization. These opportunities can be both vertical (moving upwards in the company's management structure) or horizontal (moving into a different department or area at a similar level).

In comparison, staff at smaller companies can be more stable — it's less likely that employees will change positions internally so unless they decide to leave the organization, the company's internal structure is not going to change as often.

Take the good with the bad

At smaller companies, there's potential for more recognition when things go well — and more accountability when they don't.

Employee benefits

Large companies can sometimes offer their employees more comprehensive benefits and higher salaries because they generally have the resources to do so.

However, working in a smaller office can come with other perks. Organizations with fewer employees might have more personal staff outings and get-togethers or celebrate birthdays or holidays, for example, which can strengthen team dynamics and create an environment where employees genuinely enjoy working together. It's also much more common for employees of small (or new) companies to own equity in the company, which means their hard work is directly tied to an increase in value.

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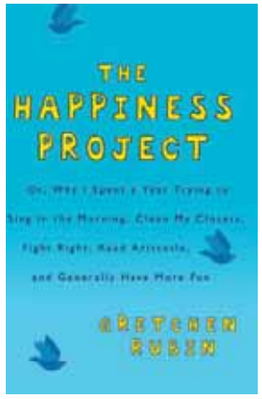


A positive support system is key to keeping your spirits high during a nine-to-five. ISTOCK

If you're like most Canadians, you spend most of your waking hours at your workplace — which means that you should try your hardest to make those hours happy ones.

Gretchen Rubin became a best-selling author five years ago with her book, The Happiness Project, in which she experimented with different tactics to create a happy life.

"A lot of times with happiness there is a lot of attention paid to big, transformative events like, 'I'm going to climb Kilimanjaro,'" says Rubin. "But it's important to look at ordinary life, the little things you can work in that don't take a lot of time or money."

We recently sat down with Rubin to get her thoughts on simple things workers can do to make their days a little brighter.

Have a work buddy

"When researchers talk to people who are happy at work, one of the most common things is that they have a friend at work," Rubin notes. It's always nice to have someone to bounce ideas off of and to take coffee breaks with.

Try to find a supportive boss

"Choose your boss carefully, if you can," advises Rubin. "Because having a boss you feel cares about your success is very important to happiness."

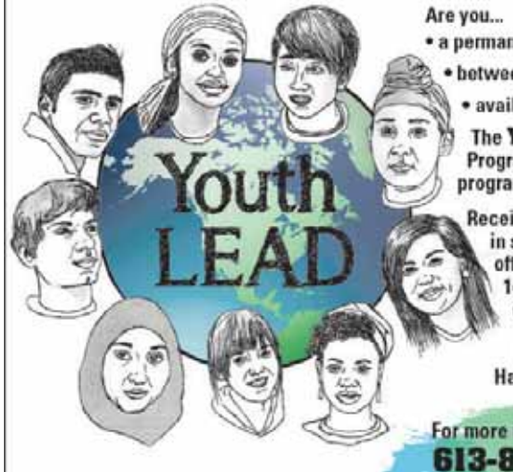
Make sure you're comfortable

Literally. "Is your desk the right size?" she asks. "Are you hunching your shoulders so that you are getting a backache every night?" Making little adjustments to your posture and finding a comfortable office chair can make a big difference. "Make sure you are comfortable in your body, because if you are uncomfortable it wears you out," Rubin adds.

Take your lunch break

• Getting some space is important. "When you walk outside and you have some distance, you're reminded that it's not the biggest deal in the world if this guy handed in his report a day late," Rubin points out.

LOOKING FOR WORK EXPERIENCE?



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Ham it up: Pork enhances gnocchi

This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Creamy Pork Strips and Gnocchi Bowl.

Chewy potato dumplings get served up with tender pieces of meat in a broth

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

November is the unofficial start of comfort food season.

This Creamy Pork Strips and Gnocchi Bowl dish is light and brothy with the creamy gnocchi as its star.

You will find freshly packed gnocchi in any grocery store or Italian deli. Spelt gnocchi is now available to those missing out who need an alternative.

You can always keep gnocchi on hand to enjoy as a side dish, as part of a dish like this one or in your hearty stews instead of potatoes.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lbs (750 g) boneless pork loin chops or boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried oregano
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) freshly ground pepper
- 2 tsp (10 ml) vegetable oil
- 1 pkg (8 oz/227 g) mushrooms, quartered
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 clove garlic, minced
- 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) sodium reduced chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 pkg (500 g) fresh potato gnocchi
- Half red pepper, diced
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) chopped fresh Italian parsley

1. On cutting board, trim fat off pork chops and cut crosswise into thin strips; place in bowl. Add thyme, oregano, pepper and toss to coat evenly.

2. In large, deep non-stick skillet heat oil over medium high heat and brown pork in batches if necessary on all sides, about 5 minutes. Remove to plate.

3. Add mushrooms, onion and garlic to skillet and cook stirring over medium heat for about 5 minutes or until browned. Pour in broth and bring to boil over medium high heat.

4. Return the pork strips to the skillet and cook them over medium low heat for about 3 minutes or until pork has a hint of pink inside.

5. Meanwhile, in large pot of boiling water, cook gnocchi for about 5 minutes or until they float to the top and are tender. Using a slotted spoon, scoop out the gnocchi and let drain well and add to sauce in skillet. Repeat with all the gnocchi. Add the diced red pepper and chopped parsley, and toss to coat.

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Beets paint risotto ruby red

This recipe serves six. BLUE DIAMOND GROWERS

Delicious, earthy beets lend a pretty hue to this all-time favourite Italian dish.

1. In a small saucepan, bring broth to a simmer; keep warm.

2. In saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Add onion, celery, garlic and thyme; cook 5 minutes, stirring. Add rice and cook, stirring, until grains are translucent, about 2 minutes.

3. Pour in 125 ml (1/2 cup) of the warm broth; cook, stirring constantly, until all liquid is absorbed. Stir in wine; cook, stirring constantly, until all wine is absorbed. Continue to add warm broth, 125 ml (1/2 cup) at a time, stirring and waiting until broth is absorbed before adding more, until rice is creamy and tender, 20 minutes.

4. Five minutes before rice is tender, stir in beets to heat through. Stir in cheese, dill, chives, salt and pepper. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FOODLAND ONTARIO

Ingredients

- 1 l (4 cups) chicken broth
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 1 medium red onion, finely chopped
- 2 stalks celery, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dried thyme
- 250 ml (1 cup) arborio rice
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) fruity red wine
- 750 ml (3 cups) diced cooked beets (4 medium)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) each snipped fresh dill and chives
- Salt and pepper, to taste

4 SPORTS

Court documents

A-Rod's cousin given $1M for silence on PED use

The U.S. government says New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez gave his cousin nearly $1 million last year to keep secret Rodriguez's use of performance-enhancing drugs.

In court documents filed last week in Miami, federal prosecutors said Rodriguez made four wire payments totalling $900,000 US between June 2013 and September 2013 to settle a threatened lawsuit by Yuri Sucart, who had worked as Rodriguez's personal assistant. The total value of that settlement could be nearly $2 million, when factoring in other elements of the deal such as a home, a car and insurance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB pre-season schedule

Blue Jays heading back to Montreal

After last year's roaring success, playing more pre-season games in Montreal was an easy choice for the Toronto Blue Jays.

The ball club and co-promoter Evenko announced Tuesday that Toronto native Joey Votto and the Cincinnati Reds will face the Blue Jays in exhibition games April 3-4 at Olympic Stadium.

Toronto hopes to duplicate the frenzy last year when 96,350 fans turned out to see the Jays win two games against the New York Mets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anaheim Ducks

Gibson to sit out for six weeks

Anaheim Ducks goalie John Gibson will be out for six weeks with a groin injury. The NHL-leading Ducks announced the rookie's injury Tuesday. They also recalled goalie Igor Bobkov from the AHL.

Gibson was hurt during warmups before Anaheim's game at Colorado last Saturday. He is 2-2-0 with a 2.28 goals-against average and a .927 save percentage in his first full NHL season.

The 21-year-old Gibson has been the backup to Frederik Andersen, who missed the Ducks' last game with leg tightness.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lazar's future still a mystery as Sens battle Red Wings

Red Wings goaltender Jimmy Howard blocks a shot as the Senators' Bobby Ryan looks on during first-period NHL action at the Canadian Tire Centre on Tuesday. Ottawa rookie Curtis Lazar played in his ninth game this season, but the Senators had not announced whether he is staying with the team or moving back to the Edmonton Oil Kings. Go to metronews.ca for the final score of the game and more coverage. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Peterson dodges prison with deal

Child-abuse case. NFL return still unclear for Vikings star who used a wooden switch on his four-year-old son

Defence attorney Rusty Hardin, left, and Adrian Peterson address the media after Peterson's hearing on Tuesday in Conroe, Texas. BOB LEVEY/GETTY IMAGES

Minnesota Vikings star Adrian Peterson avoided prison Tuesday by reaching a deal with Texas prosecutors to resolve a child-abuse case that revived a national debate about corporal punishment.

Peterson was sentenced to a form of probation after pleading no contest to a misdemeanour charge of reckless assault, for using a wooden switch to discipline his four-year-old son. It was not immediately clear how the plea deal would affect his playing status or whether he might be subject to a new NFL policy that calls for a six-game suspension without pay for a first domestic violence offence.

The All-Pro running back was indicted in September on a felony charge of injury to a child after the incident earlier this year in suburban Houston. He has been on paid leave under a special exemption from NFL commissioner Roger Goodell.

"I stand here and I take full responsibility for my actions. I love my son more than any one of you could even imagine and I'm anxious to continue my relationship with my child," Peterson said outside the courthouse after accepting the plea deal.

"I'm just glad this is over," he added. "I can put this behind me, and I and my family can continue to move forward."

He was not allowed to be near his son while the case was pending, but now can resume having contact with the boy.

"Adrian wants to get on with his life and have his relationship with his son and get back to playing football," Peterson's attorney, Rusty Hardin, said.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league "cannot provide a timetable" for that.

"We will review the matter, including the court record, and then make a determination on his status," McCarthy said.

Peterson is one of several NFL players who have been involved in domestic violence cases lately, including Carolina Panthers defensive end Greg Hardy, Arizona Cardinals running back Jonathan Dwyer and, most infamously, former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2014 Ford Transit Connect

- **Type.** Three- or four-door, compact cargo van
- **Engines.** 2.5-litre 4-cylinder (169 hp), turbocharged 1.6-litre 4-cylinder (178)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic
- **Price.** $28,699 base, $30,899 as tested

Market position

The first-generation Transit Connect essentially started the small, purpose-built work van segment in Canada. This new generation now faces competition, including some with lower starting prices, which will give buyers even more choices.

Points

- The Transit Connect can carry up to 780 kilograms (1,720 lb.) and, when properly equipped, tow up to 907 kilograms (2,000 lb.).
- The front passenger seat folds flat, to accommodate cargo up to 2,969 mm long.
- Ford works with suppliers who can outfit the van with shelves, partitions, refrigeration units, bins and other specialized systems.

The rear doors open 180 degrees for easier loading.

Interesting features

Rear doors open up to 180 degrees; capless fuel filler; overhead storage shelf; available electric windshield defroster; auto-dimming mirror; backup camera; remote starter.

Sometimes, smaller is better

PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH

Review. Transit Connect is ideal for companies or families that don't need a full-sized van

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

You've probably heard that you should always use the right tool for the job. For work trucks, that often means a smaller van for smaller jobs.

But Canadian companies had few options until 2010, when Ford introduced its European-based Transit Connect.

That model is completely updated for 2014. It now looks and drives better, and comes with more features. There's also a passenger version that Ford intends as an alternative to the minivan.

The base engine is a 2.5-litre four-cylinder, starting at $28,699 in XL cargo van trim. My top-line XLT tester, which starts at $30,099, was further optioned with a turbocharged 1.6-litre EcoBoost four-cylinder, which adds another $800.

The idea behind EcoBoost is you get smaller-engine fuel efficiency under light load, but when needed, the turbo kicks in to provide bigger-engine power. It runs on regular-grade fuel and I averaged 9.9 L/100 km in it.

As you might expect from a vehicle that's also intended for personal use, the Transit Connect handles well and doesn't feel tippy, despite its height. It can be ordered with one or two sliding side doors, and with twin rear doors or a liftgate.

The dash and centre stack bear some resemblance to Ford's passenger cars.

Standard features on the cargo van include air conditioning, keyless entry, and a tilt-and-telescopic steering wheel. The dash and centre stack bear some resemblance to Ford's passenger cars, and mine came with such amenities as a navigation system, satellite radio, and backup camera. It looks good, but it could use more small-item storage space, since there aren't many places to stash all the loose stuff that's needed for a typical workday.

Ford also offers a full-size van, the new Transit, which replaces the outgoing E-Series (Econoline) van. But many businesses don't need something that big.

For small companies such as caterers, florists and light-duty deliveries or repairs, the Transit Connect is the right size, as well as being far more manoeuvrable in tight city spaces.

It took a long time for these European-style vans to get here, but we've now learned that small can be beautiful.

Compare

1 Nissan NV200
Base price: $23,448
Available as a passenger vehicle, this well-executed van is the official taxi of New York City.

2 Chevrolet City Express
Base price:$25,995
A shared version of the Nissan NV200, the City Express features specific trim and interior features.

3 Ram ProMaster City
Base price: TBA
This upcoming van is based on the Fiat Doblo and will include a nine-speed automatic transmission.

Shift: From hybrids, technology, new vehicles and the environment, to saving money at the pumps

Chrysler will launch a plug-in hybrid minivan next year

Chrysler says it will bring to market late next year a plug-in hybrid version of its next Town & Country minivan. That's a year earlier than the company had indicated in its latest five-year plan. No automaker has offered a hybrid minivan, with or without a plug. Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne told Automotive News that the cost of electrification remains "a fundamental obstacle" for his company. He has been quoted as saying Chrysler loses $10,000 on every plug-in electric Fiat 500 it sells.

ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Chrysler will bring a plug-in hybrid minivan to market in late 2015.

Honda sorry for multiple recalls, executives pay the price with pay cuts

Honda has announced its president and 12 other executives would take quality-related pay cuts in the wake of the automaker's fifth recall in the first year of its new Fit hybrid (not sold in North America).

"We have inconvenienced many customers, and we're deeply sorry," Reuters reports Honda spokesperson Akemi Ando as saying.

The recall covers more than 400,000 Fit hybrids and other models. Honda is also facing lawsuits regarding collisions that involved outsourced airbags, also used by other auto makers, triggering millions of recalls.

Honda executives are taking pay cuts over a spate of recalls, including five for the Fit Hybrid, which is not sold in North America.

Shift points

- A recent study of fleet managers — who buy and manage vehicles for companies, governments and other groups — found they were responsible for more than half of global plug-in electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle sales through 2012.
- The Ledcor Group of Companies in British Columbia have taken delivery of more than 200 compressed natural gas vehicles, instantly creating one of Canada's largest CNG fleets. The Ford Transit Connect cargo vans are the first of their kind.
- Tesla partner Panasonic will invest about $9.2 million US in Tesla's project to supply electric-car batteries.

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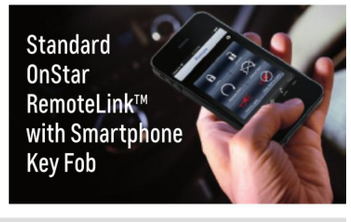

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Now being tested in real flight conditions, the AeroMobil collapses to the size of a limousine for road use. AFP

Technology. Flying car that runs on regular gas is 'very close to finished'

The AeroMobil 3.0 flying car has been unveiled, and it takes off quicker than ever.

Revealed at the Pioneers Festival in Vienna, the latest prototype of the vehicle features significant improvements and upgrades since its last version.

The machine, which its designers say is "very close to the finished product," is now being tested in real flight conditions.

Designed and manufactured in just 10 months, the car is about the same size as a limousine or a large luxury sedan, and can be parked in regular parking spots in cities. It runs on standard gasoline and can be fuelled at regular gas stations.

"I believe AeroMobil will inspire new ways of thinking about personal travel," says CEO Juraj Vaculik. "It may really enable new ways of travel, advancing it to a new level. We are set to reinvent the flying car without constraints and deliver excitement through unique technical solution and design."

The Slovakian invention has been in development since 1989, when Stefan Klein began working on a concept of a flying car. He was joined by Vaculik in 2010 and the pair embarked upon commercializing the project. AFP

Video link

For a YouTube video of the AeroMobil in flight, go to bit.ly/1rWho44.

Motorcycles. Reeves reveals his custom bikes

In 2007, Canadian actor Keanu Reeves (The Matrix) co-founded Arch Motorcycle Co. with designer and engineer Gard Hollinger. Now the venture is launching its first production model, the Arch KRGT-1, based on a concept unveiled in 2012.

The Arch KRGT-1 boasts a 2,032 cc S&S Cycle V-Twin engine (122 hp) paired with a six-speed transmission.

Starting at $78,000, it is available from the website at archmotorcycle.com. AFP

Co-created by actor Keanu Reeves, the Arch KRGT-1 starts at $78,000. AFP

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metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Something that seemed so simple a few days ago now looks complicated. Maybe it is, or maybe it's just your mind. Either way, don't make any hasty decisions today.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The more time and effort you pour into a certain situation the worse it appears to get. Why not take the hint and back off?

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
According to the planets you are working too hard and need to take a break. Everyone needs time to relax and you need it more than most right now.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It may be tempting to go beyond what you know you are capable of but the planets warn your calculations could easily be wrong — and that could be costly in more ways than one.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Certain areas of your private life may be chaotic but that is no reason to change everything. Focus on one task at a time today and don't let domestic worries detract from equally important issues.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your assumptions about what is right and wrong will be challenged today. You may need to change what you believe in.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today's Sun-Uranus link warns that changing things for the sake of it is both foolish and dangerous. If something isn't broken then why try to fix it?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
A difficult situation is set to continue for some while yet. Changes may be worrying but in the long-term you will be glad you were forced to move in a new direction.

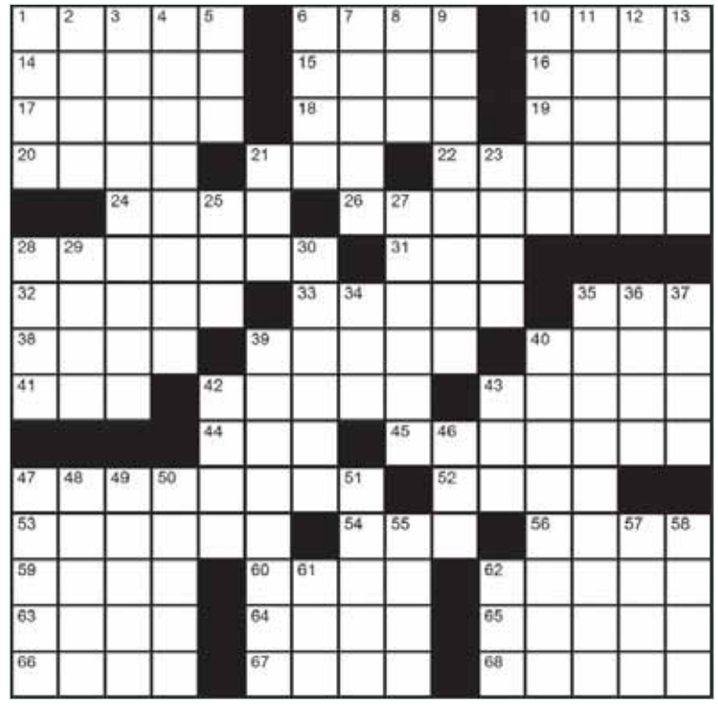
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Why are you so determined to look on the gloomy side of life? No doubt it has something to do with cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart but you don't have to worry.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Resist the urge to make snap decisions today. The Sun at odds with Uranus means you should proceed with caution, in your private life and at work.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Certain things are going out of your life and, if you are sensible, you will speed them on their way. The new is invariably more rewarding than the old.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The planets warn that your critical faculties are not what they should be at the moment, so try not to get too excited if certain people make you remarkable offers.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. 'Piece of My Soul' singer from Sherbrooke
6. Vegetable variety
10. Smudge
14. Music's Lisa, and surnamesakes
15. Opera voice
16. Role for Canadian actress Kristin Kreuk on "Smallville", __ Lang
17. __ it goes (There you have it): 2 wds.
18. Very: German
19. Against
20. Financial woe
21. Electrical resistance unit
22. __ Inlet, Nunavut
24. Glorify
26. National Enquirer breaking stories
28. Like a newborn baby bird's egg
31. New Wave singer Adam
32. Use a bike
33. G's spelled-out follower
35. Compass dir.
38. Lynn __ (Manitoba town)
39. Air conditioners company
40. Network for Ed Grimley
41. Mag. edition
42. Red Hot __ Peppers
43. Chevrolet SUV model
44. __ Tin Tin
45. Actor Ron
47. Thoroughfare in Vancouver, __ __.
52. May, in Lisbon
53. "Alas, poor __! I knew him, Horatio..." - Hamlet
54. Adele's "Rumour __ It"
56. Null and __
59. Music key, _ __.
60. Wild goat
62. The Great __, "The Flintstones" alien
63. Sword sort
64. Not yet final, at law
65. Pitching _ __
66. Also-__ (Runners-up)
67. Departs
68. Not nos

Down
1. Beaming
2. The best
3. Ottawa's CFL football team
4. Hindrance
5. Mil. entertainment presenter
6. #9-Down's "Reign" role
7. Chemistry: Ca and Fe, e.g.
8. Ordinal suffix
9. Mr. Coombs, Vancouver-born actor
10. Boring
11. Sri __
12. Up to
13. Precipitations
21. Lyric poem
23. Literary collection [abbr.]
25. Baby guitar
27. Feline's treat
28. Nero's 251
29. Scandinavian rugs
30. "Beyond the Sea" singer Bobby's
34. 'President' suffix
35. Hobnobs
36. Ancient colonnade
37. Fifty-fifty
39. Ed Sheeran's "__ Out Loud"
40. Drool
42. Dundee's fave reptile
43. __-la-la
46. Bad __ (German spa resort)
47. Actress Winona
48. __-Loompa
49. Conan O's missing bit
50. Trigonometry ratios
51. Guess Who's "__ Eyes"
55. Allies foe in WWII
57. Ms. Skye of "Say Anything..." (1989)
58. Points
61. __-Oil (Skincare brand)
62. __ Lea (Canadian dairy products brand)

Yesterday's Crossword

Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	5	4	1	6	9	8	7	2
8	7	1	2	5	3	9	4	6
9	2	6	8	7	4	3	1	5
2	8	3	5	9	1	4	6	7
1	4	9	6	8	7	5	2	3
5	6	7	4	3	2	1	9	8
4	1	8	7	2	5	6	3	9
6	3	2	9	1	8	7	5	4
7	9	5	3	4	6	2	8	1

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

8		5				3		
	6		7		5		2	
		2				5		
	2		9		1		3	7
				6				
	9	8	3	4	7	2	5	
		4				6		
		3				8		
			8	2	9			

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Starting From Price for 2015 Dodge Journey Crossroad shown: $31,785‡

+Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from $0 to $1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from $0 to $1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.

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Wise customers read the fine print: ◊, *, ‡, †, €, ★, ≈, § The 2015s Are Here Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after November 1, 2014. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,695), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. ◊$8,100 in Total Discounts is available on the new 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package models and consists of $7,000 Consumer Cash Discount and $1,100 in Consumer Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. ‡3.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on new select models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2015 Chrysler 200 LX (28A)/2015 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E)/2015 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $19,995/$19,995/$19,995, with a $0 down payment, financed at 3.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $112/$112/$112 with a cost of borrowing of $3,394/$3,394/$3,394 and a total obligation of $23,388.63/$23,388.63/$23,388.63. †0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on new 2015 Jeep Cherokee Sport/2014 Dodge Grand Caravan/2014 Dodge Journey models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2015 Jeep Cherokee Sport (24A)/2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E)/2014 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $24,695/$19,995/$19,995 with a $0 down payment, financed at 0% for 36 months equals 78 bi-weekly payments of $317/$256.35/$256.35 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $24,695/$19,995/$19,995. €$5,125 in Package Value available on the new 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT Ultimate Family Package (RTKH5329G) model based on the following MSRP options: $850 Climate Group, $1,925 Single DVD Entertainment, $1,500 SXT Plus Group and $850 Uconnect Hands-Free Group. $7,140 in Package Value available on the new 2014 Dodge Journey SXT Ultimate Journey Package (JCDP4928K) model based on the following MSRP options: $1,475 Flexible Seating Group, $1,200 Rear Seat DVD, $525 Convenience Group, $2,645 Navigation & Sound Group and $1,295 Sunroof. See your retailer for complete details. ★Discounts available at participating retailers on the purchase/lease of only the following new vehicles. 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT with Ultimate Family Package (RTKH5329G). Discount consists of: $850 in no-cost options and $2,500 DVD Incentive that will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. 2014 Dodge Journey SXT with Ultimate Journey Package (JCDP4928K). Discount consists of: $2,495 in no-cost options and $2,500 DVD Incentive that will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ≈Non-prime financing available on approved credit. APR examples: 2015 Chrysler 200 LX with a purchase price of $19,995 financed at 6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $139 for a total finance obligation of $25,341.15. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under license. ∝Best-in-class capability based on Jeep Cherokee offering 2-speed power transfer unit (PTU) with rear-locking axle, exclusive Jeep Selec-Terrain with 5 settings (including rock), and industry first fully disconnecting drive-line, best-in-class towing, approach angle, departure angle and ramp breakover angle. Based on 2014 cross shop activity including Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, Hyundai Santa Fe Sport (5 pass), Toyota RAV4, Chevrolet Equinox, Mazda CX-5, Ford Edge and Subaru Forester. ^Based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles in Operation data available as of July, 2014 for Crossover Segments as defined by Chrysler Canada Inc. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.